

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 05367

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PORG
SUBJECT: ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY PUBLIC STATEMENT: MAY 25
AFTERNOON SPC SESSION

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REFS: (A) USNATO 5334, (B) STATE 133295

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1. AFTERNOON SESSION ON ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY PUBLIC DOCUMENT WENT ALONG LINES PREDICTED REF A. FRENCH MAINTAINED THEIR POSITION THAT ALLIANCE SHOULD NOT PREPARE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON EAST-WEST STUDIES GOING BEYOND SHORT AGREED PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE HANDED OUT. TURKS WERE QUIET BUT ARE PROBABLY HIDING BEHIND FRENCH AT THIS STAGE.

2. FRENCH ALSO REFUSED TO BASE DISCUSSION ON LONG IS VERSION FAVORED BY US AND OTHERS AND THREATENED TO LEAVE THE ROOM IF MEETING CONTINUED IN THAT DIRECTION. INDEED, THEY DID NOT EVEN BRING THEIR PAPERS TO THE MEETING. FACED WITH THIS, ALLIES AGREED TO WORK FROM SHORTER IS VERSION, MAKING CLEAR THEY WOULD SEEK TO GIVE IT APPROPRIATE LIFT AND BODY AND THAT QUESTION OF WHETHER WE WERE PREPARING A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH WOULD BE HANDED OUT OR
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COMMON GUIDANCE FOR PRESS BRIEFINGS WOULD REMAIN OPEN.
3. DURING AFTERNOON DISCUSSION, FRENCH REP, UNDER HEAVY ATTACK, REPEATED CONSTANTLY, OFTEN IN SARCASTIC AND HOSTILE TERMS, POSITION THAT IS SHORT TEXT (USNATO 5292) SHOULD NOT BE "DISFIGURED" TO MAKE IT RESEMBLE PART III "WITH GRAVY" OR A COMMUNIQUE. HE REFERRED ALSO TO HIS DELEGATION'S BASIC LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR ANY PUBLIC

PAPER AND THE "COMPROMISE" FRENCH WERE MAKING IN AGREEING TO DISCUSS PROJECT AT ALL.

4. DURING PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH DISCUSSION OF IS TEXT, FRENCH FINALLY ACCEPTED CANADIAN LANGUAGE AMPLIFYING PARAGRAPH 3. CANADIAN LANGUAGE REFERS INTER ALIA TO IMPORTANCE SOVIET UNION ATTACHES TO DETENTE, IDEOLOGY AS A CONDITIONING FACTOR IN SOVIET POLICY, SOVIET INTEREST IN CONTACT WITH WEST, AND THE PROBABLE CONTINUITY IN SOVIET/EAST EUROPEAN POLICY. LANGUAGE ON HIGH PRIORITY SOVIETS ATTACH TO MILITARY STRENGTH WAS RETAINED IN PARAGRAPH.

5. HOWEVER, FRENCH REFUSED ANY OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ADDITIONS TO IS TEXT. US EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE LANGUAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, PER US CONTRIBUTION, THE STRATEGIC CONTINUUM, THE NEED FOR NATO TO MODERNIZE AND STRENGTHEN ITS FORCES, EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS, ETC. WERE REJECTED AS UN-ACCEPTABLE FOR A DOCUMENT DESTINED TO BE NO MORE THAN "SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE PRESS". (WE CHALLENGED THIS CONCEPT WHENEVER THE FRENCH RAISED IT.) FRENCH DID AGREE TO MENTION OF "HUMAN DIMENSION" OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

6. FRENCH ALSO OBJECTED TO SENTENCE IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF SHORT VERSION REFERRING TO "INTERPLAY OF ALL RELEVANT FACTORS" IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS. CANADIANS, IN EFFORT TO FIND COMPROMISE, OFFERED TO DELETE THIS SENTENCE IN RETURN FOR
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FRENCH ACCEPTANCE OF US LANGUAGE ON CONSULTATIONS. FRENCH TURNED DOWN CANADIAN EFFORT AND ANY MENTION OF ALLIED CONSULTATIONS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS, REFUSING TO ACCEPT ARGUMENT THAT ALLIED CONSULTATIONS WERE A VITAL ASPECT OF THESE RELATIONS. IN ADDITION THEY DEMANDED THAT PEN-ULTIMATE SENTENCE OF TEXT ON NEED FOR ALLIES TO MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY AND COHESION BE REJECTED AS "INAPPROPRIATE" TO THIS DOCUMENT.

7. AFTER FOUR HOURS, GROUP ACCEPTED CANADIAN SUGGESTION THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO REACH FURTHER AGREEMENT, GIVEN FACT FRENCH HAD NO FLEXIBILITY TO MOVE IN DIRECTION OTHERS FAVORED, AND THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD RETURN TO QUESTION IN WASHINGTON AFTER TIME FOR "FURTHER REFLECTION AT HIGHER LEVELS." SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE REVISED VERSION OF STATEMENT BASED ON FOREGOING DISCUSSION. US ASKED SECRETARIAT AND OTHER MEMBERS TO KEEP IN MIND KEY POINTS IN OUR LONGER VERSION AS THEY REFLECT UPON WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. GLITMAN

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